

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE  
**AMENDMENT TO ITEM 2**

March 15, 2005

On Thursday March 10, a forum was sponsored by the Association of Community Human Service Agencies, which discussed the future role of residential treatment group homes in the continuum of care for children in Los Angeles County. It was clear from this discussion that many treatment facilities are feeling the crunch of decreasing referral numbers. The forum participants, which included the Director of Children and Family Services, attributed this to the Department's increasing focus on reunification efforts, as well as the Department's practice to refer certain age groups to small foster homes rather than group homes.

In addition to experiencing the fiscal impact of reduced referrals, the residential treatment facilities have been attempting to bring attention to the fact that the rate setting system set up by the State to fund these agencies has not been modified to account for the current costs of doing business since its creation in 1990.

It is my understanding that many changes to the rate setting system could be implemented which would provide needed financial relief to these facilities without an increase in cost. I was pleased to learn that the Department of Children and Family Services has recently begun to have discussions with the facilities about the rate structure, but I understand that the State itself needs to take a more active role in this important discussion, if true progress towards reforming the rate structure can be achieved.

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In addition, while I support Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion, it is important to acknowledge the unique needs of all of our residential treatment facilities who came on board to address a critical need for Los Angeles County, and ensure that the Department continues to meaningfully engage these facilities in the County's continuum of care.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE that:**

MOTION

BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

- The Department of Children and Family Services provide guidance to other residential treatment facilities that have experienced issues with decreases in referrals from the Department;
- That the Department engage the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the California Alliance for Children and Family Services to advocate for rate setting structure reform at the State level;
- That the Executive Officer prepare a letter for the Board of Supervisors to send to the Director of the California Department of Social Services, to register Los Angeles County's concerns about the current rate setting system and its impact on provider agencies, and request that a comprehensive review is conducted; and,
- That the Department provides a report to the Board of Supervisors in two weeks on the current rate setting system, as well as a status report to the Board of Supervisors in 60 days on the proposals made on modifying the rate setting structure for group homes, including potential legislative changes that would positively impact this situation.

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